

MMD's

Mining and Minerals Division Vegetation Data Collection Form

Site Name: Poison Canyon Mine Data Sheet No. 1 of 5			
Date: 8/16/00 Location: Bottom of South Pit Transect: 1 Degrees: 73			
Line Length: 100 ft Investig	gators: <u>Karen and Garcia and</u>	l Holland Shepherd_	
1. BG	21. Litter	41. Bocu	
2. Bogr	22. Litter	42. Bocu	
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG	
4. Orhy	24. Litter	44. Bocu	
5. Atca	25. BG	45. BG	
6. Bogr	26. BG	46. BG	
7. BG	27. BG	47. BG	
8. Bocu	28. BG	48. Litter	
9. BG	29. Agsm	49. Bocu	
10. BG	30. Agsm	50. Litter	
11. BG	31. BG		
12. BG	32. Litter		
13. BG	33. Litter		
14. BG	34. BG		
15. BG	35. BG		
16. BG	36. BG		
17. Orhy	37. Atca		
18. Orhy	38. BG		
19. Orhy	39. BG		
20. Orhy	40. Bogr		
Total Rock % 0			
Total Bare Ground % 54			
Total Plant Cover $\%$ 32	Perennial %32	Annual % 0	
Total Litter % 14		<u> </u>	

Site Name: Poison Canyon Mine Data Sheet No. 2 of 5			
Date: <u>8/16/00</u> Location:	Bottom of South Pit Transec	t: <u>2</u> Degrees: <u>163</u>	
Line Length: 100 ft Investig	gators: <u>Karen and Garcia and</u>	d Holland Shepherd	
1. BG	21. BG	41. BG	
2. BG	22. BG	42. BG	
3. Rock	23. BG	43. Pefo	
4. BG	24. BG	44. BG	
5. Bocu	25. BG	45. BG	
6. BG	26. BG	46. Agsm	
7. BG	27. Agsm	47. BG	
8. BG	28. Orhy	48. BG	
9. BG	29. Agsm	49. Litter	
10. Orhy	30. Atca	50. BG	
11. Orhy	31. Atca		
12. Bocu	32. BG		
13. Orhy	33. BG		
14. BG	34. BG		
15. Rock	35. BG		
16. Atca	36. BG		
17. Agsm	37. BG		
18. Atca	38. BG		
19. Atca	39. BG		
20. BG	40. BG		
Tatal Davids 0/			
Total Rock % 2			
Total Blant Cover % 64	Boronnial 9/ 22	A mm. vol. 0/	
Total Plant Cover % 32 Total Litter % 2	Perennial % <u>32</u>	_ Annual %U	
I O GI LILLOI / 0 L			

Site Name: Poison Canyon N	Mine_	Data Sheet No3	of	<u>5</u>
Date: <u>8/16/00</u> Location:	Bo	ottom of South Pit Transect	:3_	Degrees: <u>123</u>
Line Length: 100 Investiga	tors:	Karen and Garcia and I	Hollan	nd Shepherd_
1. BG	21.	BG	41.	Clse
2. Atca	22.	BG	42.	BG
3. Litter	23.	BG	43.	BG
4. BG	24.	BG	44.	Clse
5. Litter	25.	Atca	45.	BG
6. Atca	26.	Bogr	46.	BG
7. BG	27.	BG	47.	BG
8. BG	28.	BG	48.	BG
9. BG	29.	BG	49.	Litter
10. Atca	30.	Agsm	50.	BG
11. BG	31.	BG		
12. Bocu	32.	Bocu		
13. BG	33.	Atca		
14. Bogr	34.	Atca		
15. Atca	35.	Atca		
16. Litter	36.	Agsm		
17. Orhy	37.	Atca		
18. Litter	38.	Atca		
19. BG		BG		
20. Litter	40.	Agsm		
Total Rock %0				
Total Bare Ground % 48				
Total Plant Cover % 40 Perennial % 40 Annual % 0				
Total Litter % 12				

Site Name: Poison Canyon N	<u>Mine</u>	Data Sheet No. 4	of <u>5</u>
Date: <u>8/16/00</u> Location:	Во	ttom of South Pit Transect	:: <u>4</u> Degrees: <u>140</u>
Line Length: 100 Investiga	tors: _	Karen and Garcia and H	Holland Shepherd_
1. BG	21.	Agsm	41. Agsm
2. BG	22.	Agsm	42. Litter
3. BG	23.	Agsm	43. Litter
4. BG		BG	44. Agsm
5. BG		Agsm	45. BG
6. BG	26.	Hean	46. Agsm
7. BG	27.	Clse	47. Litter
8. Bogr	28.	Hean	48. Litter
9. Bogr	29.	Hean	49. BG
10. Litter		Hean	50. BG
11. Atca	31.	BG	
12. BG	32.	Hean	
13. BG	33.	BG	
14. Litter	34.	BG	
15. BG	35.	BG	
16. Atca	36.	BG	
17. Atca	37.	Agsm	
18. Atca	38.	BG	
19. Atca	39.	Agsm	
20. Atca	40.	BG	

Total Rock %0			
Total Bare Ground % 40			
Total Plant Cover % 46	Perennial % 36	Annual %	<u>10</u>
Total Litter % 12			

Site Name: Poison Canyon Mine Data Sheet No. 5 of 5				
Date: 8/16/00 Location: Bottom of Southwest Pit Transect: 5 Degrees: 241				
Line Length: 100 ft Investiga	tors: Karen and Garcia and Holl	and Shepherd_		
1. Litter	21. Agsm	41. BG		
2. BG	22. BG	42. BG		
3. BG	23. BG	43. BG		
4. Orhy	24. BG	44. BG		
5. Litter	25. BG	45. BG		
6. BG	26. Agsm	46. Orhy		
7. BG	27. Litter	47. BG		
8. BG	28. Litter	48. BG		
9. BG	29. Litter	49. Bocu		
10. BG	30. BG	50. Litter		
11. Litter	31. Agsm			
12. BG	32. Agsm			
13. Litter	33. Agsm			
14. BG	34. BG			
15. BG	35. Agsm			
16. Agsm	36. Litter			
17. Agsm	37. Orhy			
18. BG	38. Orhy			
19. BG	39. Orhy			
20. BG	40. Orhy			

Total Rock %0				
Total Bare Ground % 50				
Total Plant Cover % 30	Perennial % _	30	Annual % _	
Total Litter % 20	_			<u> </u>

Key to Abbreviations Used in this Evaluation

Rock = Rock with diameter > 2 inches

BG = Bare Ground

Litter = Plant Litter

Agsm = Agropyrom smithii

Bogr = Bouteloua gracilis

Bocu = Bouteloua curtipendula

Atca = Atriplex canescens

Clse = Cleome serrulata

Orhy = Oryzopsis hymeniodes

Hean = Helianthus annus

Pefo = unknown perennial forb



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

GARY E. JOHNSON

Governor

Jennifer A. Salisbury

Cabinet Secretary

Douglas M. Bland
Director
Mining and Minerals Division

August 14, 2000

Joe Pollara Newmont Mining Corp. Environmental Department 1700 Lincoln St. Denver, Co. 80203

Re: Prior Reclamation Release of Poison Canyon Mine Site

Dear Mr Pollara,

In follow up to our telephone conversation last Friday, August 11, 2000, I would like to outline an approach in establishing reclamation standards for release of the Poison Canyon Mine site from further requirements under the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) Subpart 510.

In order for a prior reclamation site to be released, it must be determined through an inspection that the condition of the site will allow for the re-establishment of a self-sustaining ecosystem. In accordance with the NMMA Rules § 510.B, if the site does not meet the requirements of the NMMA, it will have to be permitted through submittal of a permit application and closeout plan with financial assurance.

One tool used to determine if a site will allow for a self-sustaining ecosystem, is to compare a vegetative survey of the site with the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Range Site Description (RSD). This method has been used for other prior reclamation release applications. The Range Site Description is a projection of what the site should look like considering its soils, annual precipitation pattern, topography etc. Generally, the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has accepted a standard of 75% of the RSD value for relative canopy cover. For example, if the RSD has 18% expected cover value, the operator would have to meet a 13.5 % cover value for that site. MMD also takes into account a species diversity goal for the site based on the RSD. The site should have a mix of cool season and warm season perennial grasses as well as shrubs and forbs. An indication of trend is evaluated by comparing past inspections with current site conditions. MMD will take quantitative as well as qualitative information into account in making our determination for release.

Mining and Minerals Division * 2040 S. Pacheco Street * Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 * Phone: (505) 827-5970 * Fax (505) 827-7195 * http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us

If you choose to use the RSD for the Poison Canyon Mine site please provide MMD with a copy of the RSD as soon as possible so that we can discuss and come to an agreement with you on the vegetative standards to use during our inspection on Wednesday, August 16, 2000.

Your cooperation and assistance in this matter is appreciated. Please call me at 505-827-5982, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

When W Larcin

Karen W. Garcia

Reclamation Specialist

Mining Act Reclamation Program

STATE, OF NEW MEXICO

FAX COVER SHEET

STATE, DF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 S. PACHECO STREET SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505

(505) 827-5970 FAX (505) 827-7195



DATE: 9/5/00				
FAX TO: Joe Pollara				
COMPANY: New mont				
FAX NUMBER: <u>303-837-6/30</u>				
FROM: Jarcia				
SUBJECT/COMMENTS: Here the large prosion feature as mother about — the bottom lage of the photo shows the head out L'd like to stop.				
PAGES TO FOLLOW:				

STATE, OF NEW MEXICO

FAX COVER SHEET

STATE, OF NEW MEXICO

ENERGY MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 S. PACHECO STREET SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505

(505) 827-5970 FAX (505) 827-7195



DATE: 8/21/00	
FAX TO: Jor Pollara	
COMPANY: Newmont	
FAX NUMBER: 303-837-6130	
FROM: Karen Janeia	
SUBJECT/COMMENTS: Heres the Jld wrkshee This may help in your calculations	ts
Also-made table w/ legend	
and fax -> \$ -left 2 pages out	
PAGES TO FOLLOW:	

PRIOR RECLAMATION SITE SUMMARY

UNITED NUCLEAR CORP.

Contact:

Juan Velasquez

1720 Louisiana NE

262-1800

The 3 UNC sites had a variance until the end of 1998. All that is said is that a determination will be made by MMD whether the release criteria are met.

Variance (

Anna Lee Mine (T14N R9W 28): Total area addressed by Mining Act is 1/10 of an acre. Reseeded in fall, 1994. Inspected July 13, 1995. No perennials growing. Recommendations were to cover slab and reseed. Variance requested by UNC in June, 1997.

John Bill Mine and Sandstone Mine (T14N R9W 34): Total area is approximately 8 acres in two areas. Reseeded in fall, 1994. Inspected July 13, 1995. Vegetation was sparse. Steel scrap and buildings found at sites, presumably at request of leasee. Recomendations were to cover slab and submit a letter from leasee requesting that buildings and scrap be left on site. Variance requested by UNC in June, 1997.

HRI

Contact:

Mark Pelizza

972-387-7777

Churchrock ISL SEC 17: Disturbed area is approximately 16 acres. HRI purchased property from UNC who did some reclamation work in 1990 or 1991 (removed head frames and most buildings, recontoured ore pads and covered shafts and vents). This is one of HRI's insitue leaching sites. Inspected on August 29, 1995. There were 5 ponds remaining up to this time. HRI agreed to reclaim these ponds in 1997.

NEWMONT GOLD (Santa Fe Pacific Gold)

Contact:

Rick River

Idarado Mining Co. P.O. Box 584 Ouray, CO 81427 (970) 325-4482 (970) 325-4853

5

Poison Canyon Mine (T13N R9W 19): The only SFPG prior rec site not released or that falls under the act. Site is 30 acres. MMD letter dated July 24, 1996 gives a 5 year variance from the 1995 date. The letter states that at the end of the 5 year variance "the Director will consider whether to extend this variance". Originally reclaimed in 1987 with additional work in 1993 and 1994. Not released due to lack of diversity and poor establishment of grasses and forbes. SFPG purchased by Newmont (303-837-5069). Fence surrounds site. Topsoil depth presumably 4 inches.

QUIVIRA

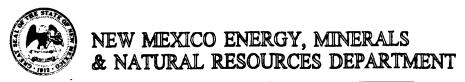
MMD letter dated April 21, 1997 approving the variance request indicated only that sites will be inspected in the summer of 1997 and that those sites not released would be reinspected during the summer of 1998. MMD letter dated October 31, 1997 says that they must apply for another variance. Quivira response states that this was discussed with Holland and that the existing variance is good until end of 1998. No other corespondance on the matter was found.

Section 17 (T14N R9W): 22 acres Section 19 (T14N R9W) 19 acres Section 22 (T14N R10W): 37 acres Section 24 (T14N R10W): 26 acres Section 30 (T14N R9W): 44 acres Section 30W (T14N R9W): 26 acres Section 33 (T14N R9W): 28 acres

Inspected by MMD in 1995, 1997 and 1998.

Access ID No. 18027 US-NAUM0175237

y woo?



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-5950

Jennifer A. Salisbury

October 7, 1998

Rick River Idarado Mining Co. P.O. Box 584 Ouray, CO 81427

RE: New Mexico Mining Act Rules

Dear Mr. River:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules. The portion of the Rules that pertains to Newmont Gold's Poison Canyon prior reclamation site is Section 5 for existing mines. In particular, Section 510 addresses Prior Reclamation.

As discussed on the phone, our current plan is to do an inspection of the Poison Canyon site on October 22 of this year to see how the reclamation is progressing. The variance for Poison Canyon does not expire until 2000 at which time an inspection for release will be conducted. However, if it is determined during our October inspection that vegetation is not fairing well, it would suggest that Newmont should take measures now to improve the reclamation condition.

If you have any questions about the Rules or prior reclamation, please call me at (505) 827-1172.

Sincerely,

Rob Pine Hydrologist

Mining Act Reclamation Program

Enclosure:

NM Mining Act Rules

FACSILIME

USDA - NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE GRANTS FIELD OFFICE 117 NORTH SILVER AVENUE **GRANTS, NEW MEXICO 87020**

PHONE: (505) 287-4045 FAX: (505) 287-7049

Transmitted By: Kichael Montago Date:
Number of Pages: (Including cover sheet)
To: Rob Pine
Office:
FAX Number: ()
Phone Number: ()
Please call to confirm receipt of fax
For Ref: Rg Site descriptions
Reference To:
Action For Information Per Phone Call As Requested Note and File Other
For Comment Note and Return
Comments:
A. Roquestel
Clayey & Sandy Site

MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-5970

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

Jennifer A. Salisbury

July 24, 1996

Mr. Tim Leftwich Vice President-Environmental Quality Santa Fe Pacific Gold Box 27019 Albuquerque, NM 87125

Re: Approval of Variance Request, Poison Canyon Mine, Section 19, T13N, R9W

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

This letter confirms the Division's approval of your variance request for the prior reclamation of the mine site identified above.

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has reviewed your May 31, 1996 variance request regarding the Poison Canyon Mine prior reclamation site. This request sought relief from Section 510.B, of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules (Rules). This Section requires that the Director make a determination concerning the prior reclamation status of a site by September 30, 1995 and that the operator provide a permit application within six months after the operator receives notice of the determination.

The Director has determined that the mine site meets the requirements of Sections 1004.B 6 and 7 of the Rules, which discuss the conditions for granting a variance approval.

Under the provisions of this variance, MMD personnel will continue to inspect the site yearly for five years or until it is determined that the site reclamation measures satisfy the requirements of the Act and the substantive requirements of Subpart 5. At the end of five years the Director will consider whether to extend this variance.

By Order of the Director,

Kathleen Garland

Director, Mining and Minerals Division

cc. Holland Shepherd, Bureau Chief, MARB MMD
John McKay, Permitting Coordinator, MARB MMD



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

June 13, 1996

Mr. Holland Shepherd Mining and Minerals Division New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

Enclosed you will find a check in the amount of \$522.50 for the variance application fee, copies of the affidavits from the Cibola County and Gallup Independent Newspapers, and copies of Certified Mail return receipts.

If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

Tim Leftwich

Vice President -

Environmental Quality

TL:pt

Enclosures

Index of Correspondence

Date	Addressee	Subject
09/29/95	Tim Leftwich/From: Kathleen Garland	Reclamation Inspections
11/21/95	Kathleen Garland/From: Tim Leftwich	9/29/95 ltr. and inspection rpt. on voluntary prior rec. rpts.
04/25/96	Holland S./From: Tim Leftwich	Poison Canyon Mine
05/13/96	Tim Leftwich/From:Holland S.	Prior Reclamation
05/31/96	Director/From: Larry Frank	Requesting a Public Hrg.

Larry Frank

Indian Art of North America New Mexico Folk Art P. O. Box 290 Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico 87813 (505) 776-2281 (506) 776-8639





Director,

princing and minerals

Division, Energy,

divinerals, and statusal

persures Dept.

Dear Director,
This is the third

time of have written your organization

requesting a public hearing regarding

Lanta the Prairie Gold Corporations

application for a variance (19 NMAC 10. 2

Lubyrast 10). If see no reason to receive

another letter telling me of may make

such a request. This letter constitutes

my formal request for a public hear
ing.

Thank Joa in alvara, Hours, Larry Franks

^a Affidavit of Publication

LEGAL NOTICE Gallup McKinley County New Mexico

STATE OF NEW MEXICO	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation h submitted an APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE for the abandoned: Pois
) SS	Canyon mine site, located Section 19, 13N., R.9W., in accordance with the pro-
COUNTY OF McKINLEY	Canyon mine site, located Section 19, 13N., R.9W., in accordance with the prosion of Subpart 10 of the New Meximing Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10). The mine is located in Cibola County
HUBBARD, Freida being duly sworn upon	Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexi- Principal Meridan. The mine covers a
oath, deposes and says:	proximately thirty (30) acres of land prev
As Legal Clerk of The Independent, a	lations. The purpose of the variance is provide for up to five additional growing
newspaper published in and having a general circulation in	seasons before the determination is man by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for
McKinley County, New Mexico and in the City of Gallup, New	(MMD) that the site meets the criteria faleas from additional revegetation require
Mexico and having a general circulation in Cibola County, New	ments. The applicants address is:
Mexico and in the City of Grants, New Mexico and having a	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400
general circulation in Apache County, Arizona and in the City of	Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110 Interested persons wishing to subm
St. Johns and in the City of Window Rock, Arizona therein: that this affiant makes this affidavit based upon personal knowledge	written comments or request for a publi hearing on this matter may do so by wri
of the facts herein sworn to. That the publication, a copy of which	ing to:
is hereto attached was published in said newspaper during the	Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resource
period and time of publication and said notice was published in	Department State of New Mexico
the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement thereof,	2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe. New Mexico 87505
for <u>one time</u> , the first publication being on the	The deadline for submitted is Monda July 1, 1996
31st_ day ofMay, 19_96_ the	Copies of the Application for a Variance available for public inspection at the Mother Wjiteside Public Libruary, Cibol County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Libruary, and the
second publication being on the day	Library and the McKinley County Clerk' Office. Friday, May 31, 1996.
of, 19 the third publication	Office. Friday, Way 31, 1790.
on the day of, 19	AVISO PUBLICO
on the day or, 13	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 1 sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UN
	VARIACION para su mina abandon. Poison Canyon cerea de Grants, Ne
	Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones o Subpart 10 de las Reglas del Mineria d estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febr
	TO DE 1330 (NMAC 10.2 Suppart 10),
	La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.1 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexic
	Principal; Meridian. La mine tiene una ex tension de 30 acres de tierra anteriorment
	pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Tod el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitad
	conforme a los requisitos de las leyes reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de l
	variacion es proveer para que pase cinc mas estaciones de crecimento antes de
	determinación, a ser hecho por la Divisio de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el s
and the last publication being on the day of	tio sumple con los sriterios para releva d las obligaciones de algun requisito adicio
	nal para la revegetacion. La direccion del suplicante es:
, 19	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400
That such newspaper, in which such notice or advertisement	Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110 Personas interesadas que descan some
was published, is now and has been at all times material hereto,	ter algun escrito, o una suplica para un audiencia publica sobre esta materia, de
duly qualified for such purpose, and to publish legal notices and advertisements within the meaning of Chapter 12, of the statutes	ben dirigir su solicitud escrito a: Director, Mining and Minerals Division
of the State of New Mexico, 1941 compilation.	2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
	La fecha final para someter propuestas comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio d
Freida Judonia	1996. Copias de la solicitud para una varia
Affiant.	cion estan disponibles para inspeccio publica en las Bibliotecas
Sworn and subscribed to before me this 31st day	Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las of
·	nas del Secritario del los Condados d McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants
of May , A.D., 19 96 .	New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996
f_1	Legal #13013 Published in The Independent May 31, 1996.
Mine Mous	
Notary Public	
My commission expires	

2735 2M BUTLER'S Gallup

June 22, 1997

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF CIBOLA

James Honeycutt, being duly sworn deposes and says that he is the publish NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10). THE CIBOLA COUNTY BEACON, a newspaper published in Grants, Cibola County, New Mexico, that the notice of

Public Notice

a copy of which is hereto attached was first published in said newspaper in i the determination is made by issue dated _______ and was published in an issue of sa the Mining and Minerals newspaper, once each week, and not in any supplement, thereafter for the fu meets the criteria for release consecutive weeks, the last publication from additional revegetation period of One (1) thereof being an issue dated Subscribed and sworn to before me on

> Notar OFFICIAL SEAL DEBI GOVIZACES mm ssion STATE OF NEW MEXICO Commission Expires

Publisher's Fees \$ 105°3

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARI-ANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon, mine site located Section 19, T.13N, R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five addi-tional growing seasons before requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific **Gold Corporation** 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E. Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110 Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by

writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and **Natural Resources** Department State of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 The deadline for submittal

7 is Monday, July 1, 1996; 45 _ Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PUBLICO Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION -nere



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435



May 30, 1996

Mr. Holland Shepherd, Mining and Minerals Division New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Santa Fe New Mexico 87505

RE: Application For Variance For The Poison Canyon Mine, Section 19, T. 13N., R.9W.

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

Enclosed is Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's application for a variance for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine. As stated previously, it is Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's contention that we do not meet the definition of owner operator under the New Mexico Mining Act. However, this submission is done so in the spirit of cooperation with the Mining and Minerals Division. This application is filed in accordance with Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules. As per Subpart 903.A, the following adjacent land owners will be given notice:

In accordance with Subpart 903.B, Cibola County and the Navajo Nation will be given notice. Notices in Spanish and English will be published in the Gallup Independent and the Cibola County Beacon in accordance with Subpart 903.C. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will post notices in accordance with Subpart 903.D in the Cibola County Clerks Office, the McKinley Public Library, the Mother Whiteside Library and McKinley County Clerks Office. In accordance with Subpart 903.F, notice will be mailed to those interested individuals whose names you provided. Likewise, notice will be mailed to the Environmental Department, State Engineer, Department of Game and Fish, Forestry Division and the State Historic Preservation Division. Letters for proof of notice, copies of returned certified mail receipts and newspaper notice are proof of publication and will be forwarded to you under separate cover.

A check in the amount of \$522.50 for the variance application fee will be submitted within the next two weeks. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely.

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

Enclosure



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Mr. Irvin Harrison, County Manager 201 W. Hill Avenue Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation
 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

McKinley Public Library 215 W. Hill Gallup, New Mexico 86301

RE: Public Notice Concerning The Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine Site

To Whom It May Concern:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests that the attached public notice be posted in the McKinley Public Library, preferably before June 1, 1996. The notice will need to be posted until July 1, 1996.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

Lee A. Dimpkink

Lee R. Simpkins

Environmental Specialist

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department State Of New Mexico 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 29, 1996

Gallup Independent Newspaper P.O. Box 1210 Gallup, New Mexico 87305

RE: Public Notice Concerning The Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine Site

Dear Editor:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests that the attached public notice be published in the Gallup Independent Newspaper, preferably before June 1, 1996. The notice will only need to be published in one issue either in the legal or classified section of the newspaper. The bill for services rendered may be sent to the address shown above.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

Lee R. Dimphind

Lee R. Simpkins

Environmental Specialist

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 29, 1996

Cibola County Newspaper P.O. Box 579 Grants, New Mexico 87020

RE: Public Notice Concerning The Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine Site

Dear Editor:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests that the attached public notice be published in the Cibola County Newspaper, preferably before June 1, 1996. The notice will only need to be published in one issue either in the legal or classified section of the newspaper. The bill for services rendered may be sent to the address shown above.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

Lee A. Dingkins

Lee R. Simpkins

Environmental Specialist

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

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La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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May 30, 1996

Mother Whiteside Public Library 525 W. High Street Grants, New Mexico 87020

Attn: J.L. King

RE: Public Notice Concerning The Abandoned Poison Canyon Mine Site

Dear Mr. King

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests that the attached public notice be posted in the Mother Whiteside Public Library, preferably before June 1, 1996. The notice will need to be posted until July 1, 1996.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at this office.

Sincerely,

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION

Lea R. Dingkins

Lee R. Simpkins

Environmental Specialist

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The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



May 30, 1996

Cibola County Clerks Office Attn: Georgia 515 W. High Street Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Georgia:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely.

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

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- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

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Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

G)

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State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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May 30, 1996

McKinley County Clerks Office Attn: Mary PO Box 1268 Gallup, New Mexico 87305

Dear Mary:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

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May 30, 1996

New Mexico Environment Department Harold Runnels Building 1190 St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

To Whom It May Concern:

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Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
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Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

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- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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State Of New Mexico
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Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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Access ID No. 18027



May 30, 1996

New Mexico Dept. of Forestry and Resources Conservation Division 408 Galisteo Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

To Whom It May Concern:

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Sincerely.

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
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- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
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- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals
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Access ID No. 18027

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May 30, 1996

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish 408 Galisteo Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

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Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996

Access ID No. 18027



May 30, 1996

State Historic Preservation Division La Villa Rivera, 228 E. Palace Avenue Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996

Access ID No. 18027



May 30, 1996

State Engineer Water Rights Division BATAAN Memorial Building, Room 102 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

To Whom It May Concern:

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Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely.

Tim Leftwich

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- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
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- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals
 Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site
 does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact
 is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe
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7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

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Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

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Access ID No. 18027



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Mr. Larry Frank
PO Box 290
Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico 87513

Dear Mr. Frank:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

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- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
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- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
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- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
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BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Ms. Maxine Goad PO Box 2502 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Dear Ms. Goad:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

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BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Mr. Eric Ames
Western Environmental Law Center
PO Box 1507
Taos, New Mexico 87571

Dear Mr. Ames:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

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Sincerely.

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

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- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Mr. Grove Burnett
Western Environmental Law Center
PO Box 1507
Taos, New Mexico 87571

Dear Mr. Burnett:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Ms. Sue McIntosh Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club 945 Camino de Chelly Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Ms. McIntosh:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

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Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

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State Of New Mexico
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Mr. Doug Meiklejohn New Mexico Environmental Law Center 103 Cienega Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Meiklejohn:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
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Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

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BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Mr. Doug Wolf New Mexico Environmental Law Center 103 Cienega Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

Letwich

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation
 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996

Access ID No. 18027



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Mr. Paul Robinson, Research Director Southwest Research & Information Center PO Box 4524 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwick

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. **Background.** The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

Access ID No. 18027

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe. New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Mr. Brian Shields Amigos Bravos PO Box 238 Taos, New Mexico 88502

Dear Mr. Shields:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

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Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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Access ID No. 18027



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Mr. John J. Pfeil, Geologist
Office of the Natural Resources Trustee
PO Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 88502

Dear Mr. Pfeil:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

eftwich

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

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- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

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Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
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BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Ms. Sally Smith 300 W. Yankee Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Dear Ms. Smith:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. A copy of the APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE is available for public inspection at the Grants and Gallup Public Libraries and the Cibola and McKinley County Clerks Offices.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals
 Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site
 does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact
 is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe
 Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not
 have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the
 inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of
 precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no
 control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Bureau of Land Management 435 Montano Road, NE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

To Whom It May Concern:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

Jim deftwick / 20

Access ID No. 18027

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation
 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals
 Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site
 does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact
 is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe
 Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not
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 inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of
 precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no
 control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

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Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Isabel Marquez
PO Box 3526
Milan, New Mexico 87021

Dear Ms. Marquez:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

Jim deftwick / dd

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

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La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Melvin & Roberta Marquez San Mageo Road, Box 4064 Grants, New Mexico 87020

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Marquez:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

Jim Leftwich / & S

Access ID No. 18027

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

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Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

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State Of New Mexico
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BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Duane Berryhill and Berryhill Ranch, Inc. 7000 W. 66 Avenue
Bluewater, New Mexico 87005

Dear Mr. Berryhill:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

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Director, Mining and Minerals Division
Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

Jim deftwick / Ld

Access ID No. 18027

US-NAUM0175369

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals
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 does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact
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 precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no
 control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site, located Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996 (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

May 30, 1996

Ms. Donna Jean McKinnon & Ms. Frances Lareen Fathree Life Estate in Volton Tietjen PO Box 125 Continental Divide, New Mexico 87312

Dear Ms. McKinnon & Ms. Fathree:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has submitted an APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine, in accordance with the provision of Subpart 10 of the New Mexico Mining Act Rules of February 15, 1996, (19 NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from an additional revegetation requirement.

The applicants address is:

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Attention: Tim Leftwich 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or a request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittals is Monday, July 1, 1996. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please either me or Denise Gallegos.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President-Environmental Quality

Jim Seftwick/ &D

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE Pursuant to New Mexico Mining Act Rules Subpart 10

1002.A

4

- Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
- 2. This application is submitted on May 31, 1996.
- 3. This variance is sought for the abandoned Poison Canyon Mine.
- 4. The mine is located in Section 19, T.13N., R.9W.
- 5. This variance is sought from Subpart 510.B, which requires that a permit application be submitted within 6 months after the owner or operator received notice of the determination. Santa Fe Pacific Gold maintains its position that the company does meet the definition of owner or operator under the New Mexico Mining Act.
- 6. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests variance from Subpart 510.B.
- 6.a. Background. The results of a site inspection from the Mining and Minerals Division during the fall of 1995 indicate that the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site does not meet the criteria for a "self sustaining ecosystem under Subpart 507.A. This fact is stated in a report and in subsequent correspondence from the Division to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. However, the site was reclaimed during July 1994 and did not have adequate time for re-vegetation efforts to become established at the time of the inspection. Other contributing factors to the lack of reclaim vegetation is a lack of precipitation and the grazing practices the site is subject to, all of which Santa Fe has no control over since the corporation does not control the surface.
- 6.b **Proposal.** Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes, based on reclamation experience in the abandoned Poison Canyon area, that the site will meet the criteria under Subpart 507.A., if the area receives adequate precipitation. Additionally, due to the heavy grazing the area receives, several growing seasons should be allowed for vegetation to establish itself. The Poison Canyon site will be inspected by qualified Santa Fe Pacific personnel in accordance with corporate policies twice a year to determine if additional work is required at the site. Santa Fe proposes giving the abandoned Poison Canyon mine site five years. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requests Mining and Minerals inspect the site once a year.

7. If this variance request is not granted, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation will be forced to apply for a permit pursuant to Subpart 5. and wait 12 years following the issuance of the permit for the site to be released. The cost of compiling a permit is:

Permit Preparation: \$30,000
Permit Application Fee \$2090
Annual Fee \$23,826
Staff Management \$150,000

Total Cost \$205,916

(This cost does not include bonding)

- 8. The adit and other mine openings at the abandoned Poison Canyon site have been backfilled and are inspected annually in accordance with corporate policies. The site in its present condition does not pose a threat to human health and safety, nor to the environment. Threats to human health and safety were not identified during the Mining and Minerals inspection.
- 9. Pursuant to Subpart 201.K, the fee for this variance application is \$500. Pursuant to Subpart 205.A, compensation for the Department Game and Fish is 4.5 of the \$500 fee. Total fee payment is \$522.50

PUBLIC NOTICE

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The mine is located in Cibola County in Section 19, T.13N., R9W., New Mexico Principal Meridian. The mine covers approximately thirty (30) acres of land previously disturbed for uranium mining. All of the mine site has been reclaimed according to requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of the variance is to provide for up to five additional growing seasons before the determination is made by the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the site meets the criteria for release from additional revegetation requirements.

The applicants address is: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Interested persons wishing to submit written comments or request for a public hearing on this matter may do so by writing to:

Director, Mining and Minerals
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State Of New Mexico
2040 South Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The deadline for submittal is Monday, July 1, 1996.

Copies of the Application for a Variance are available for public inspection at the Mother Whiteside Public Library, Cibola County Clerk's Office, McKinley Public Library and the McKinley County Clerk's Office. Friday, May 31, 1996

AVISO PULBICO

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ha sometido una SOLICITUD PARA UNA VARIACION para su mina abandonar Poison Canyon cerca de Grants, New Mexico, de acnerdo con las provisiones de Subparte 10 de las Reglas del Acto de Mineria del estado de Nuevo Mexico, del 15 de Febrero de 1996 (NMAC 10.2 Subpart 10).

La mina esta situada en Seccion 19, T.13 Norte, Extension 9 Oeste, New Mexico Principal Meridian. La mine tiene una extension de 30 acres de tierra anteriormente pertubado por la mineria del uranio. Todo el sitio de la mina ha sido rehabilitado conforme a los requisitos de las leyes y reglamentos aplicales. El proposito de la variacion es proveer para que pase cinco mas estaciones de crecimento antes de la determinacion, a ser hecho por la Division de Mineria y Minerales (MMD), que el sitio cumple con los criterios para releva de las obligaciones de algun requisito adicional para la revegetacion.

La direccion del suplicante es: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation 6200 Uptown Blvd. N.E., Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Personas interesadas que desean someter algun escrito, o una suplica para una audiencia publica sobre esta materia, deben dirigir su solicitud escrito a:

Director, Mining and Minerals Division 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

La fecha final para someter propuestas o comentari os es el Lunes, dia 1 de Julio de 1996. Copias de la solicitud para una variacion estan disponibles para inspeccion publica en las Bibliotecas Publicas en Grants y Gallup, y en las oficinas del Secritario del los Condados de McKinley y Cibola, en Gallup y Grants, New Mexico. Viernes, 31 de Mayo, 1996

Access ID No. 18027

MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION 2040 South Pacheco Street Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 (505) 827-5970

Kathleen A. Garland DIVISION DIRECTOR

Jennifer A. Salisbury CABINET SECRETARY

May 13, 1996

Mr. Tim Leftwich Vice President - Environmental Quality Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation P.O. Box 27019 Albuquerque, NM 87110

Re: Prior Reclamation, Poison Canyon Mine, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

Thank you for your letter of April 25, 1996. Your cooperation in addressing the Poison Springs prior reclamation question is greatly appreciated.

You mentioned in your recent letter that you had assumed we had dropped the six sites mentioned in our February 13, 1996, from the list of sites requiring reclamation under Mining Act because of the marketable mineral clause found under the definition of "existing mining operation," in the Mining Act. This is correct, we determined that these sites did not meet the definition of an "existing mining operation." We were unable to find any record showing that these operations produced marketable minerals for a total of two years between January 1, 1970 and July 18, 1993.

Regarding the status of the Poison Springs site, this must be resolved through a variance or permit application. Pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) Rules Subpart 510, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation applied to the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) for an inspection of prior reclamation of their Poison Canyon Mine. During the inspection, MMD personnel could not determine if Santa Fe Pacific Gold's reclamation was successful because the newly seeded vegetation had not had enough time to become established.

MMD is agreeable to granting a variance from the September 30, 1995 deadline addressed in NMMA Rule Subpart 510.B if a variance request is submitted and the requirements of public participation in NMMA Rules Subpart 9 are completed. If the variance is granted MMD will reinspect the reclamation of the Poison Canyon Mine at a time to be agreed upon by the operator and MMD. If then the Director determines that the reclamation measures at the Poison Canyon Mine are consistent with the requirements of the NMMA and Rules then, pursuant to NMMA Rules Subpart 510.B, the Director will release the owner or operator from further requirements of the Act and Rules.

Access ID No. 18027

Thank you for sending us the updated address for Reserve Oil and Minerals Corp. We will again attempt to contact Reserve Oil and Minerals Corp. regarding the Poison Springs site. However, until we can get some type of commitment from Reserve Oil we must continue to consider Santa Fe Pacific Gold responsible for the site.

We would be happy to meet with you concerning the status of the Poison Springs mine. I will have sometime during the afternoon of Mon. 5/20 to meet and the afternoon of Fri. 5/24. I will then be out of the office until June 5, 1996. It is very important we resolve this as soon possible because of the time frames set up in the NMMA Rules.

Sincerely,

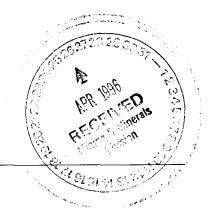
Holland Shepherd, Bureau Chief Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining and Minerals Division

HWS/RSY

cc: Kathleen Garland, Director, MMD



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435



April 25, 1996

Mr. Holland Shepherd Bureau Chief Mining Act Reclamation Bureau Mining & Minerals Division 2040 S. Pacheco St. Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Poison Canyon Mine

Dear Mr. Shepherd:

I am in receipt of your letter advising Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation that the Poison Canyon Mine is the only site for which we previously sought prior reclamation approval where further work will be necessary pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act. We hereby respond without waiving any of our previously reserved positions regarding the New Mexico Mining Act in relation to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation and the sites for which we sought prior reclamation approvals.

Your letter asks whether we have a more current address than the Grants, New Mexico address in your records for Reserve Oil and Minerals, the former operator of the site. Our files reflect that the current address of Reserve is as follows:

1-505/247-2384

Meanwhile, however, it would be helpful in evaluating our intentions concerning the Poison Canyon site if you would provide us with all information you have concerning the site, an assessment of what MMD believes still needs to be done, and your estimation of whether the site might be eligible for a variance or for permitting as a minimal impact site under the Mining Act.

Your letter also indicates that MMD has determined that certain sites which you previously advised were not eligible for a prior reclamation release are not, it turns out, within the definition of existing mining operations under the Act. Because Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation was not the operator of those sites, we have not attempted to evaluate production data to confirm your conclusions, which I assume are based on more than just our reservation of the legal position that the sites may

April 25, 1996 Page 2

not have produced in marketable quantities for a total of two years under the pertinent definition. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation contends we do not meet the definition of operator under the Act, therefore we have no obligation to conduct further reclamation of the Poison Canyon site.

We respectfully request a meeting concerning the state of the Poison Canyon site and how this issue might be resolved. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President -

Environmental Quality

c:

P. M. James

G. R. Wagner

W. Jarke

S. R. Butzier

Access ID No. 18027



BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125 6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE. SUITE 400 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110 TEL 505-880-5300. FAX 505-880-5435

November 21, 1995

Ms. Kathleen A. Garland, Director Mining and Minerals Division Post Office Box 6429 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-6429

Re: September 29, 1995 Letter and Inspection Report on Voluntary Prior Reclamation Requests of Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.

Dear Ms. Garland:

Thank you for your letter dated September 29, 1995 reporting on the results of the prior reclamation inspection requests that Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ("Santa Fe") submitted on August 31, 1994. You will recall that Santa Fe's submissions were voluntary. Santa Fe is not the operator or owner of the operations, despite the various references in the Inspection Report to Santa Fe as the operator, and despite the request for further action in your letter.

Although Santa Fe is not responsible, we nonetheless were surprised and disappointed to learn that only three of the reclaimed sites qualified for release in MMD's estimation. Santa Fe respectfully disagrees with the recommendations of the inspectors and the determination of MMD that the seven sites listed on the second page of your letter do not qualify for release under the prior reclamation provisions of the Mining Act. The purpose of this letter, however, is not to discuss the specifics of that disagreement.

Rather, my purpose is to notify your office that Santa Fe does not itself intend to take any further steps in connection with obtaining variances or existing mine permits for the sites. Please refer to my August 31, 1994 letter accompanying the prior

reclamation submissions. Santa Fe submitted the applications in a spirit of cooperation to assist MMD with its initial tasks of identifying and narrowing down the potential operations that may need some level of regulatory involvement.

In extensive prior communications with MMD, Santa Fe and others have pointed out the clear statutory and long-established regulatory confirmation that landowners or passive royalty owners who had no operational control or ownership interest in the operations are not the parties with reclamation and permitting responsibilities. Santa Fe also explained its position that uranium operations are excluded from the Act's coverage during the development of regulations. We preserved all of Santa Fe's positions in my August 31, 1994 letter. I assume our analyses need no further explanation here, but if you have any questions or desire anything further from us in this regard, please advise.

Your September 29 letter mentions one reclaimed mining site that your staff was not able to locate on the ground. With respect to that site, I would suggest that you contact the operator, United Nuclear Corporation, to ascertain the exact location and extent of its operations.

I assume that MMD will promptly notify the responsible operators of the opportunity to obtain a variance and the possibility that a permit will be required, as outlined in your September 29 letter. Santa Fe notified MMD of who those operators are, and I note that they are referred to in the Inspection Report. Santa Fe is also willing to share any information we may have that would assist MMD with locating the operators, to the extent that they may still exist.

Please contact Paul Eby or Denise Gallegos of our office with any questions relating to locating an operator. Of course, if I can answer any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

Tim Leftwich

Vice President - Environmental Quality

cc: Paul Eby

Denise Gallegos

NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL KESOURCES DEPARTMENT

September 29, 1995

Mr. Tim J. Leftwich Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Box 6200 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite 400 Albuquerque, NM 87110

RE:

Prior Reclamation Inspections

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has completed inspection of reclamation measures as requested by Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation.

Based on findings in the enclosed inspection reports, reclamation measures at the following mines satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the NMMA Rules. Santa Fe Pacific Gold, therefore, is hereby released from further requirements of the NMMA on the following mines:

Faith Mine (Section 29, T 13N R 9W) Section 13 (T 1N R 6W) Haystack Mine (Section 19, T 13N R10W)

Reclamation measures at the following mines do not satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the NMMA Rules. However, since Santa Fe Pacific Gold has completed most reclamation measures at the following mines, Santa Fe may apply for a variance from the provisions of the NMMA Rules pursuant to Rule 10. Otherwise, pursuant to NMMA Rule 5.10.B Santa Fe Pacific Gold must submit permit applications and closeout plans for existing mining operations within six months of receipt of this letter.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-5950

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-5923

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-5900

FORESTRY AND RESOURCES CONSERVATION DIVISION - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-5830

MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-7131

PARK AND RECREATION DIVISION - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87504-1147 - (505) 827-7465

Hola Mag lo Isabella Mine (Section 7, T 13N R 9W)

LINC Marquez Mine (Section 23, T13N R 9W)

Reserve Al Poison Canyon Mine (Section 19, T 13N R 9W)

Rev. McGee Section 1 (T 13N R 9W)

LINC Section 31 (T 13N R 9W)

Homestake Section 25 Mine (Section 25, T 13N R 10W)

Todilto Expl. SW 1/4 Section 13 (T 13N R 11W)

The location of the mine on Section (T 13N R 9W) was not adequately identified by Santa Fe Pacific Gold for inspection by MMD. The Mining and Minerals Division attempted to locate the site, but was unable to do so. Therefore, no inspection for prior reclamation was made. If reclamation measures have been performed, this site may also be addressed under a variance.

The enclosed prior reclamation inspection report details the findings of the inspection but does not include the photos/slides contained in the MMD file copy.

MMD appreciates your efforts to comply with the NMMA and commends you for your safeguarding and reclamation efforts. If you have any questions please contact Holland Shepherd of the Mining Act Bureau, (505) 827-5971.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Garland, Director Mining and Minerals Division

Ms. Maxine Goad, Environment Department

Mr. Sonny Marquez

S. Farthree and McKingen

S. Berryhill Ranch

Enclosures

cc:

PRIOR RECLAMATION INSPECTION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR RELEASE OR PERMIT REQUIREMENT

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of New Mexico Mining Act Section 69-36-7 U., Prior Reclamation

New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Mining and Minerals Division
Mining Act Reclamation Bureau

September 29, 1995

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to determine if reclamation measures at 11 mines, for which Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requested prior reclamation inspections, satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act and substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act Rules. The sites are tabulated in Table I. Figures 1 and 2 are maps showing the locations of the mine sites.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation (Santa Fe) is the owner of the mineral rights at all the mine sites mentioned above, with the possible exception of the mine on Section 17 T13N R9W. Santa Fe Pacific Gold was not the operator any of the sites, but has reclaimed the sites (Santa Fe, 1994) in an effort to remove any further liabilities relative to the New Mexico Mining Act. Neither is Santa Fe the surface owner of any of the sites. This has hindered reclamation activities because Santa Fe cannot restrict grazing by surface owners on reclaimed areas. The known surface owners are listed in Table I.

Table I
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Prior Reclamation Inspection Sites

Name of Mine	Location of Mine	Operator	Surface Owner	Inspected
Unknown	SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W	Todilto Exploration	Cerrillos Land Company	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Unknown	Section 13 T1N R6W	M. P. Grace	Unknown	Sept. 21, 1995 Young & Shepherd
Unknown	Section 1 T13W R9W	Kerr-McGee	Sonny Marquez	Sept. 13, 1995 Young & Martinez
Unknown	Section 17 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Unknown	Could not be located in field
Haystack	Section 19 T13N R10W	Todilto Exploration	S. Farthree and McKingen	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Section 25 Mine	Section 25 T13N R10W	Reserve Oil and Minerals	S. Berryhill Ranch	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Unknown	Section 31 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Faith Mine	Section 29 T13N R9W	Ranchers Exploration	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Isabella Mine	Section 7 T13N R9W	Ranchers Exploration	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Marquez Mine	Section 23 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Sonny Marquez	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Poison Canyon Mine	Section 19 T13N R9W	Reserve Oil and Minerals	Cerrillos Land Company	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney

Inspection Procedures

On August 31, 1995 Santa Fe Pacific Gold escorted MMD personnel on a quick inspection of 8 of 11 sites for which Santa Fe submitted prior reclamation inspection requests. Ms. Denise Gallegos, Manager-Environmental Compliance and Audits, Mr. Paul Eby, Director-Field Operations, Mr. Lee Simpkins and Mr. Larry Taylor, Contractor, represented Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. Mr. Robert Young, Environmental Engineer and Dr. Robyn Tierny, Reclamation Specialist represented the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division. On September 12 Mr. Robert Young and Mr. Fernando Martinez, Reclamation Specialist revisited six of the above sites to take additional measurements. The site on Section 1 T13W R9W was inspected on September 13 by Mr. Robert Young and Mr. Fernando Martinez, Reclamation Specialist. Another site on Section 13 T1N R6W was inspected September 21, 1995 by Robert Young and Holland Shepherd, Mining Act Bureau Chief. Santa Fe Pacific Gold did not attend the inspections of the sites on

Sections 1 T13W R9W or Section 13 T1N R6W. Another site on Section 17 T13N R9W, for which a prior reclamation inspection was requested (Santa Fe, 1994), was searched for, but could not be found. Without an inspection of the site, no evaluation could be made regarding prior reclamation status.

Inspections of each mine site consisted of a review of information submitted by the mine operator, subsequent discussion with the operator pertaining to mining and reclamation at each site, inspection of the condition of the reclaimed mine sites, line-intercept sampling for estimates of vegetative cover, compilation of plant species lists, measurement of reclaimed soil depths, and photo-documentation. Each of the mine sites were visually inspected for erosion features and hydrologic stability. During a walkover of each site, all slopes, areas of water concentration (ponds, diversions and areas where disturbed areas enter undisturbed lands) were visually inspected for stability. Topsoil placement and distribution also was evaluated at each site. Sampling for topsoil depth consisted of randomly digging a series of holes to identify the depth of topsoil and the presence or absence of potentially toxic wasterock at rooting depth. Grading of all wasterock piles and borrow areas was visually inspected. Placement and closure of portals and vent shafts was verified in the field.

The establishment and relative percent cover of reseeded and native plant species were evaluated in randomly placed transects. Fifty foot transects were evaluated at each mine site using the line intercept method (Bonham 1989). These transects were used to estimate the relative percent cover of each plant species intercepted at 3' intervals along a transect. A total of 17 points per transect were recorded. In addition, a list of species present within a 50' X 6' belt transect adjacent to each transect was compiled. These sampling procedures, however, do not meet sample adequacy. Rather, these procedures were conducted to estimate the relative percent cover and to evaluate the diversity of species present at each of the eight mine sites. Additional resources would be needed to fully evaluate the vegetation of these prior reclamation sites to a level of sample adequacy and would require at least 24 additional man-hours of inspection time per site. Where it was obvious that sufficient vegetation existed on site, or insufficient vegetation existed, no transect evaluations were made. Photos were taken, in these situations, to document the vegetation cover.

Results and Discussion

SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W

This was a surface mine, located approximately 27 miles north west of the City of Grants, New Mexico. The mine is characterized by red Entrada Sandstone cliffs that tower above it. The uranium mineralization occurred in Todilto Limestone just below the Entrada Sandstone. A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health and safety. Photos documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are in Appendix A. The site was reclaimed in 1994 and reseeded in the fall of 1994 by Santa Fe Pacific Gold (Eby, 1995). The regrading included, at the request of the surface owner, the construction of six depressions to impound rainwater for livestock (Eby, 1995). There were minor rills from water flowing into these depressions. Topsoil depths across the site averaged 6 inches.

Cattle, sheep, goats, and wildlife have heavily grazed the reclaimed portions of this site and the vegetation showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed perennial cover to be approximately 12 percent (Tierney, 1995). The results of the vegetation measurements are presented in Table II. This site was evaluated as having an insufficient vegetation cover to qualify for release.

TABLE II SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect
Ambrosia dumosa	BG
Papaver sp.	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Cleome serrulata	Atriplex canesceus
Atriplex canesceus	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	BG
	BG

BG	
Oryzopsis hymenoides	
Rock	

Average Perennial Cover = 12% Rock Cover = 6%

Section 13 T1N R6W

This was a surface mine, located approximately 36 miles north west of the City of Magdalena, New Mexico. The site is within a mile of the Alamo Navajo Indian Reservation. Uranium bearing sandstone was contourmined along an outcrop in the side of Jaralosa Creek Canyon. The operator, M.P. Grace, operated the mine under a lease from then Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The lease was terminated in 1979 and the site was reclaimed in 1980 (Santa Fe, 1994). The total area of disturbance was about 2 acres.

While it was difficult to locate the mine site, there were several small waste piles. Natural vegetation had successfully reestablished itself such that the waste piles were nearly indistinguishable from the natural mounds and ridges along the canyon. The location of the mine was located by a red clay that had been uncovered in one pit and was out of place. There was moderate erosion, but the erosion was consistent with that of the surrounding area. A powder magazine, circa 1970's, was left as a mining relic. All other structures, trash and junk had been removed. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health or safety.

The site and surrounding area showed signs of grazing impacts. Plant diversity, however, was good with more than 21 native plant species identified on the site. It was very difficult to distinguish this site from the adjacent undisturbed areas, so no transect evaluation was deemed necessary. Photographs documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix B. Because of the quality of cover and diversity of plants found on the site, it qualifies for release.

Section 1 T13W R9W

This mine site is located on a shelf in a canyon wall about 50 feet above the canyon floor. The canyon was eroded into Dakota Sandstone. The mine had been operated by Kerr-McGee under a lease agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Gold and was safeguarded by Kerr-McGee upon termination of that agreement (Santa Fe, 1994). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. A vertical shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material.

Essentially, the site had been safeguarded but not topsoiled or reseeded. The site is characterized by white fine grained sandstone covered by a few inches of fine white sand. The sand is subsequently being eroded away by wind and water. A mine access road had significant erosion. An impoundment had been constructed to impound sediment from the mine site, however, erosion from the access road was bypassing the impoundment and was entering the mine site. Photographs documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix C.

Some native plant species from adjoining areas were invading the disturbance area. Line-intercept transects indicated vegetation cover to be approximately 29 percent (Young, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table III. Vegetation on this site is dominated by hairy goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*), an unpalatable increaser. Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), was also found growing sparsely on the site. Given the sandy nature of these soils, stands of Indian ricegrass and sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*) should be more prevalent here. Because of the overall lack of diversity and the poor establishment of perennial grasses and forbs, this site does not qualify for release.

TABLE III
Section 1 T13W R9W Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2
Guterrezia sarothrae	BG	Heterotheca villosa
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Heterotheca villosa
Heterotheca villosa	BG	Oryopsis hymenoides
	BG	Heterotheca villosa
	BG	Heterotheca villosa
	BG	BG
	Heterotheca villosa	BG
	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
	BG	BG
	Heterotheca villosa	BG
	BG	Heterotheca villosa
	BG	Bedrock
	BG	Bedrock
	Rock	BG
	Heterotheca villosa	BG
	Rock	BG

Average Vegetative Cover = 29%

Section 17 T13N R9W

This site was not shown to MMD staff by Santa Fe Pacific Gold personnel and could not be located in the field. Presumably, the site has been reclaimed (Santa Fe, 1994). However, without a formal inspection of this mine site, no evaluation could be made by MMD personal regarding the mine's prior reclamation status.

This site cannot be released at this time.

Haystack Mine (Section 19 T13N R10W)

This mine was the original Paddy Martinez discovery. It was a surface mine located approximately 27 miles north west of Grants, New Mexico. The mine was operated under an agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The uranium mineral was found in the Todilto Limestone. Santa Fe Pacific Gold began reclamation of this site in 1990 under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action that concluded in 1991 (Santa Fe, 1994). At the time of this inspection, Santa Fe claimed to have a letter of release from the EPA (Gallegos, pers. comm.), and indicated that a copy would be sent to MMD. However, MMD never received this copy.

A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health or safety. There were no erosion features. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix E. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from four to six inches.

Grazing by domestic livestock and wildlife have had some impact on the vegetative cover of this reclaimed site. Most of the reclaimed area had been heavily grazed and showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed perennial cover to be approximately 32 percent and litter cover 18 percent (Tierney, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table IV. Because of the perennial quality of plant cover and diversity on this site, staff recommends it for release.

TABLE IV
Haystack Mine Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1 North side of	Transect #2 On Wasterock
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG
Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Bouteloua gracillis	Bouteloua gracilis
Sporobolus cryptandrus	Bouteloua gracillis	Litter
Juniperus monsperma	BG	Atriplex canescens
Ambrosia dumosa	Bouteloua gracilis	BG
Kochia scoparium	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Mirabilis sp.	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Phlox sp.	Litter	BG
Mentzelia pungens	Salsola kali	BG
Salsola kali	Litter	BG
Bouteloua gracilis	BG	BG

Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
	Litter	Bouteloua gracilis
	Agropyron sp.	Sporobolus cryptandrus
	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides
	Litter	Litter
	Litter	Litter

Average Perennial Cover = 32%

Litter Cover = 21%

Section 25 Mine

The Section 25 mine is located 14 miles northwest of Grants, New Mexico. This 8-acre site was a surface mine operated by Reserve Oil and Minerals. It was reclaimed and reseeded by Santa Fe Pacific Gold in 1993. Additional reclamation activities were performed in 1994. A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health and safety. There were several topsoil mounds left by Santa Fe because small mammals had extensively burrowed into them and were using them for habitat. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix F. The regrading included construction of three large depressions that impounded rainwater for livestock. There was one significant erosion feature and several areas of minor erosion on the sides of these depressions. Topsoil depths across the site were greater than 12 inches. An earthworm found while measuring soil depths at this site is a good sign that the soils are generally non-toxic.

Portions of the reclaimed vegetation have heavily grazed by wildlife and domestic livestock. However, native plant species were invading the area. Twenty-six native species of plants were identified. Line-intercept transects showed average perennial vegetation cover to be approximately 22 percent (Young, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table V. Despite the slight increase in the number of perennial species invading this site from adjacent areas, there was poor establishment of the perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs on the slopes of the depressions and topsoil mounds. Because of the lack of adequate cover, this site does not qualify for release at this time.

TABLE V
Section 25 Mine Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1 West Depression (Soil Depth +1')	Transect #2 Middle of Site (Soil Depth +1')	Transect #3 East Side of Site (Soil Depth +1')
Mirabilis multiflora	BG	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Aster sp.	Erigeron sp.	BG	BG
Lepidium sp.	BG	BG	Rock
Cleome serrulata	Senecio longilobus	BG	BG

Sphaeralcea incana	BG	Mentzelia sp.	BG
Senecio longilobus	BG	BG	BG
Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Rock
Sporobolus cryptandrus	Litter	BG	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	Litter	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Boutelloua gracilis	Cleome serrulata	BG	Rock
Agropyron smithii	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
Mentzelia decapetala	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Agropyron smithii	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	BG
Sparganium sp.	Cleome serrulata	Agropyron smithii	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	Rock
Fleabane	BG	BG	BG

Average Vegetative Cover = 22%

Section 31 T13N R9W

This was a surface mine located 14 miles northwest of the Grants, New Mexico. The mine was operated by United Nuclear Corporation until termination of the lease in 1975. Open adits and shafts were backfilled and otherwise safeguarded in 1987. The site was reclaimed and reseeded by Santa Fe the fall of 1994 (Santa Fe, 1994). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site however, trespass dumping has since taken place. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health or safety. There were minor erosion features where water had flowed into depressions. Twenty foot slopes of limestone cobble were left on the south side of the reclaimed area to blend in with a natural limestone outcropping. Several 6 foot high, 50 foot long topsoil stockpiles were left because small animals were burrowing into them and were using them for habitat. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix G.

There was evidence of grazing by livestock and wildlife on this site. Vegetation also showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed vegetation cover to be approximately 12 percent (Young, 1995). The results of these vegetation measurements are presented in Table VI. Because of the lack of cover and diversity, staff does not recommend this site for release.

TABLE VI
Section 31 T13N R9W Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2	Transect #3
Mirabilis multiflora	Rock	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Sphaeralcea incana	Rock	Rock	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG	BG
Senecio longilobus	Rock	BG	BG
Ceratoides lanata	Rock	BG	BG
Salvia sp.	Rock	BG	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	BG	BG	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
Lycium pallidum	Salvia sp.	BG	BG
Sporobolus airoides	Rock	BG	BG
Bouteloua gracilis	Litter	BG	BG
Mentzelia decapetala	Rock	BG	BG
Agropyron smithii	Rock	BG	Rock
	Rock	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Oryzopsis hymenoides
	Rock	BG	Oryzopsis hymenoides
	Rock	Litter	BG
	Rock	BG	Rock

Average Vegetative Cover = 12%

Faith Mine (Section 29 T13N R9W)

This underground mine was reclaimed in 1986 (Eby, 1995). Native vegetation from adjoining undisturbed lands had invaded the site and it was difficult to tell that a mine had previously existed on this site. Approximately one acre had recently been regraded and reclaimed, the only other indication of the mine presence was a revegetated mound where a vertical shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Eby, 1995). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. Similarly, there were no erosion features. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix H. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from 4 to 6 inches.

As with the other mines, the vegetation had been grazed by wildlife and domestic livestock. The vegetation also showed signs of drought stress. However, the adequate plant cover and diversity deemed it unnecessary to perform transect evaluations of the plant community. Staff recommends this site of release. The plant

community has been documented by photographs (See Appendix H).

Isabella Mine

This was a 2-acre site consisting of a head frame for underground mining. Ranchers Exploration conducted limited operations on this section under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The site was reclaimed in 1987, but is still accessed by a two-track road from the Old Wilcoxen Ranch. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. The mine shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Eby, 1995). There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There was one erosion feature, 200 feet south of the shaft site, which threatens to head cut across from an unnamed ephemeral tributary of Arroyo del Puerto running adjacent to the site. This head cut if left unchecked will eventually intercept the closed shaft. Mr. Paul Eby said that Santa Fe Pacific Gold would repair it. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix I. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from 4 to 6 inches.

Again, the mine site had been grazed by livestock and wildlife. Similarly, vegetation showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects indicated that vegetation cover was approximately 15 percent (Young, 1995). Results of vegetation measurements are presented in Table VII. Because of the lack of plant cover, this site is not recommended for release.

TABLE VII
Isabella Mine Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	BG
Bouteloua gracilis	Litter	BG
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG
Juniperus sp.	BG	BG
Cleome serrulata	Kochia scoparia	BG
Agropyron smithii	BG	BG
	BG	Salsola iberica
	BG	BG
	BG	BG
	BG	BG
	Salsola iberica	BG
	Litter	BG
	BG	Salsola iberica
	BG	Kochia scoparia

BG	BG
BG	BG
BG	BG

Marquez Mine

This site is reached by a two-track road from a ranching complex known as the Marquez Old Home Place. It was the site of a decline shaft adit below a cliff outcropping of the Dakota Sandstone. United Nuclear leased the section from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled in 1987. The site is characterized by the sand dune appearance of a mine waste pile backfilling a declined shaft adit. The site lies within San Mateo Creek Canyon, however, and the high and constant winds move soils to form sand dunes. Further, San Mateo Creek is ephemeral at this location and windblown sand from the streamed forms dunes against the cliff face. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site with the exception of some pipe and lumber (left at the request (Eby, 1995) of the surface lessee, Sonny Marquez). There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. Photographs documenting the vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix J. The decline shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material. Regrading of the site also included construction of terraces to break up slopes.

Topsoil depths across the site were greater than 12 inches, but consisted entirely of windblown sand. This area was essentially barren with most of the seed and mulch blown away before vegetation could be established. Native species such as Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), from adjoining areas were starting to invade he disturbance area (Young, 1995). Because of the obvious lack of plant cover at the site no transects were attempted. Staff does not recommend release of this site.

Poison Canyon Mine

This site is characterized by an abundance of sunflowers and locoweed. The locoweed is probably a selenium accumulator for which the canyon (also known as 'Sheep Kill Canyon') was named. Reserve Oil and Minerals operated the mine under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled and the mine reclaimed in 1987 upon termination of the lease. Additional reclamation of the site was conducted in 1993 and 1994 (Santa Fe, 1994). A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were a few erosion features including one that was significant. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix K. An inclined shaft portal had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Santa Fe, 1994). The regrading of this site included construction of mounds, berms, terraces and depressions that impounded rainwater for livestock.

Topsoil depths across the site were approximately 4 inches. Line-intercept transects indicated that perennial vegetative cover was approximately 31 percent. The results of these vegetation measurements are presented in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII
Poison Canyon Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2	Transect #3
Agropyron sp.	Rock	Rock	BG
Aster bigolovii	BG	BG	Rock
Agropyron smithii	Helianthus sp.	BG	Helianthus sp.
Oxytropis lambertii	Helianthus sp.	BG	BG
Mentzelia decapetala	Rock	BG	BG
Gutierrezia sarothrae	BG	Atriplex canescens	Rock
Linum perenne lewisii	BG	Agropyron smithii	Rock
Cleome serrulata	BG	Litter	Helianthus sp.
Melilotus officinalis	BG	Atriplex canescens	Agropyron smithii
Sphaeralcea coccinea	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Salsola iberica	BG
Helianthus sp.	BG	BG	BG
Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG	Atriplex canescens	BG
Hordeum jubatum	Helianthus sp.	Kochia scoparia	BG
Senecio longilobus	Rock	Oryzopsis hymenoides	BG
Sphaeralcea incana	Rock	BG	Helianthus sp.
Atriplex canescens	BG	BG	Helianthus sp.
	BG	Litter	BG

Average Vegetative Cover = 27 %

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the inspection of the 11 mine sites, review of inspection information with Mining and Minerals Division staff and MMD's resources to conduct these inspections, it is recommended that:

the Haystack (Section 19 T13N R10W), Section 13 (T 1N R 6W) and Faith (Section 29 T13N R9W) Mines

be released from further requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act. The other mine sites:

SW1/4 of Section 13 (T 13N R11W), Section 1 (T 13W R 9W), Section 31 (T 13N R 9W), Section 7 (T13N R 9W, a.k.a. Isabella Mine), Section 23 (T 13N R 9W, a.k.a. Marquez Mine), Section 25 (T 13N R 10W), and Section 19 (T 13N R9W, a.k.a. Poison Canyon Mine)

staff has determined do not meet the environmental conditions that allow for the development of a 'self-sustaining ecosystem' as defined in Rule 1. and put forth in Rule 5.7A of the New Mexico Mining Act. Some of these site were reclaimed in July 1994, so present a situation where it is difficult to determine vegetation success. One season of growth in the areas under evaluation does not provide sufficient time to make this kind of a determination. The sites remain at a very early successional stage and contain mostly weedy species or no species.

However, based on oral communications with the operator, and on the inspected condition of these remaining reclaimed sites as documented by this inspection report, it is clear that the operator has made an effort to complete the required reclamation of these remaining sites. It is therefore recommended that the Director of MMD give a variance to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation from meeting the deadline of September 30, 1995 for prior reclamation under the New Mexico Mining Act and Rules for: the SW1/4 of Section 13 (T 13N R11W), Section 1(T 13W R 9W), Section 31 (T 13N R 9W), Section 7 (T13N R 9W, a.k.a. Isabella Mine), Section 23 (T 13N R 9W, a.k.a. Marquez Mine), and Section 19 (T 13N R9W, a.k.a. Poison Canyon Mine) mine sites. This variance would stipulate that inspections will be conducted by MMD during the late summer of 1997 at each of these remaining sites to determine if the conditions necessary for development of a 'sustainable ecosystem' are then present on-site, and if any further actions including (but not limited to) reseeding or interseeding by the operator are necessary.

The Section 17 (T 13N R 9W) mine site was not adequately identified by Santa Fe Pacific Gold for inspection by MMD. The Mining and Minerals Division attempted to locate the site, but was unable to do so. Therefore, no inspection for prior reclamation status was made. This site could also be addressed under a variance.

References

Bonham, C. D. 1989. Measurements for Terrestrial Vegetation. Wiley-Interscience. 338 pp.

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Santa Fe (Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation) 1994. Prior Reclamation Request.

Tierney, Dr. Robyn 1995. Reclamation Specialist, MMD, Field Notes.

Young, Robert S. 1995. Environmental Engineer, MMD, Field Notes.

Appendix A

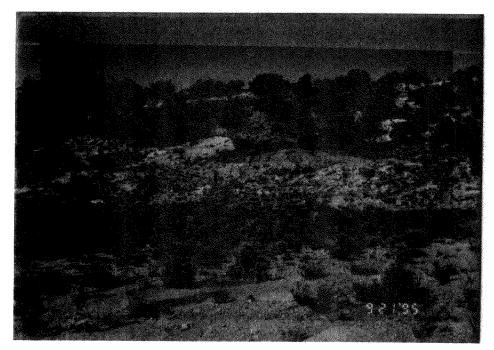
Photo Documentation SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W

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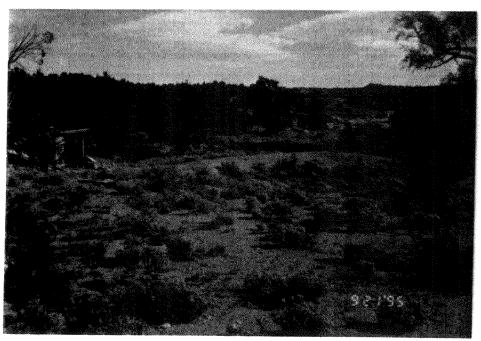
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Appendix B

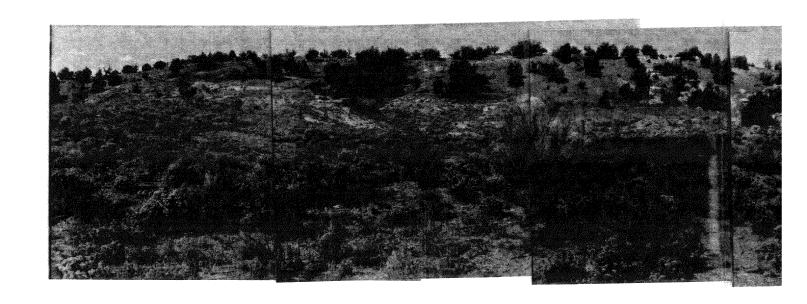
Photo Documentation Section 13 T1N R6W



Section 13 T1N R6W, Mine Site from East, September 21, 1995



Section 13 T1N R6W, Powder Magzine, September 21, 1995



Section 13 T1N R6W, Mine Site From East